

Compassion

The President's 2007 Budget continues the successful pro-growth policies that have encouraged robust economic growth and job creation. A strong economy, together with spending restraint, is critical to reducing the deficit. The Budget builds on last year's successful spending restraint by again holding the growth of overall discretionary spending below inflation, proposing to reduce non-security discretionary spending below the previous year's level, and calling for the elimination or reduction of programs not getting results or not fulfilling essential priorities. Like last year, the budget proposes savings and reforms to mandatory spending programs, whose unsustainable growth poses the real long-term danger to our fiscal health.

President Bush is committed to the goal of building a more compassionate America through our Nation's long tradition of helping individuals, families, and communities most in need. The President also believes that faith-based and community groups should be mobilized to help transform the lives of our neighbors by addressing many of our world's most challenging social problems. The FY 2007 Budget reflects the President's priorities.

The President's FY 2007 Budget:

- Provides access to health care through more than 300 new and expanded Health Center sites, including 80 new sites in counties that have a high prevalence of poverty;
- Builds on the President's health insurance reform proposals to promote Health Savings Accounts and to expand coverage to more Americans with limited incomes;
- Provides \$297 million in grants to continue Faith-Based and Community initiatives that mentor the children of prisoners, help addicts recover, divert at-risk children from gang activities, and other targeted programs. This represents a 25 percent increase from 2006 enacted levels;
- Provides \$250 million for new healthy marriages and strengthening fatherhood initiatives to improve the well-being of children;
- Provides \$204 million for abstinence-only education programs;
- Provides \$188 million to States, Faith-Based, and Community Organizations for a new initiative to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, particularly within minority communities; and
- Proposes to exclude all retirement savings when determining if a household is eligible for food stamps to make it easier for low-income people to save for retirement and get food stamps if they need them.

The FY 2007 Budget also includes:

Strengthening Families and Helping Children

- \$100 million to enhance the efforts of faith-based and community organizations serving low-income children and families. Specifically, grassroots organizations will receive training and technical assistance, as well as targeted capacity building to better meet the needs of the poor by improving their delivery of social services.
 - Of this, \$50 million will support violence prevention programs within the First Lady's Helping America's Youth Initiative. Funding will help faith-based and community organizations build capacity to foster supportive relationships with at-risk youth.

- \$204 million for abstinence-only education programs. This includes:
 - \$137 million for the community-based abstinence education program, of which \$10 million will fund the national abstinence education campaign;
 - \$50 million in mandatory funding for the State-based abstinence grants program;
 - \$13 million for the Adolescent Family Life Program; and
 - \$4.5 million for evaluations of abstinence programs.
- \$17.2 billion for the newly reauthorized TANF program to provide assistance to families with children. Since the reformed welfare program was created in 1996, the number of welfare recipients has continued to decrease, and employment and earnings among the target population have increased. Reauthorization maintains the funding level, strengthens work requirements to maximize self-sufficiency, and supports healthy marriage and family formation, including:
 - \$250 million for healthy marriage initiatives, of which \$100 million is for competitive matching grants to States for marriage promotion. It also includes:
 - \$150 million to award grants promoting healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood from welfare reauthorization, including up to \$50 million for the new Strengthening Fatherhood Initiative for the 25 million children living in homes without fathers and up to \$2 million for new child welfare demonstration grants for Tribes.
 - \$6.8 billion for Head Start, enough to serve over 900,000 children. The Administration supports reauthorization of Head Start to make sure children enter school ready to learn.
 - \$100 million for a competitive grant program that will enable States, school districts, or non-profits to offer more choices and expanded educational opportunities to low-income students in chronically low-performing schools. Students will be eligible for funding that may be used to cover some of the cost of attending the private school of their choice or receiving intensive supplemental services.
 - The Administration has proposed an alternative funding option for the Foster Care program that would give States more flexibility to target funds to innovative services. This would encourage more preventative services and promote a stronger and more responsive child welfare system.
 - \$102 million for post secondary education at Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) universities and Tribally Controlled Community Colleges.
 - \$2.5 million increase for administrative changes and technical assistance to enable BIA elementary and secondary schools to meet academic requirements for No Child Left Behind.

Giving Ex-Offenders a Second Chance and Fighting Addiction

- \$59 million for competitive grants to programs to provide assistance to individuals transitioning out of the prison system through the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor. Federal agencies team with faith-based and community organizations to help recently released prisoners make a successful transition back to society and long-term employment.
- \$98 million for grants to States and Tribal Organizations to provide Access to Recovery vouchers, which enable addicted and recovering individuals to personally choose from a range of effective treatment and recovery support options, including faith-based and community providers. Within this amount, \$25 million will be targeted to help individuals recover from methamphetamine abuse.

Marshalling the Armies of Compassion

- Provides \$40 million for mentoring of children of prisoners, building upon grant programs totaling over \$150 million over the last four years for this purpose.
- Provides \$99 million for the Compassion Capital Fund, an increase of over 50 percent from 2006 enacted levels. This program funds intermediary demonstration projects, mini-grants to help build capacity of the small "Armies of Compassion," and gang involvement prevention programs.

Providing for the Most Vulnerable

- \$4 billion for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, an increase of nearly \$750 million, to further strengthen international efforts to combat this epidemic through support for comprehensive prevention strategies and lifesaving treatments.
- \$188 million for an initiative to focus Federal resources on domestic HIV-testing, medical care and outreach, with the goal of ending the growth in the number of new domestic HIV/AIDS cases and reducing the future burden of the disease. The Budget also calls for reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, making it more responsive to the HIV/AIDS epidemic today and the African-American and other minority communities that disproportionately suffer from the disease. This includes:
 - \$70 million for HIV/AIDS medications to help States end current drug waiting lists; and
 - Faith-Based organizations will compete for \$25 million in grants to help educate, prevent HIV/AIDS, and promote testing.
- \$15 million to support the Victims of Trafficking Program to identify and certify victims of human trafficking, link them to services, and increase public awareness. Of this amount, \$5 million will assist United States citizens or aliens admitted for permanent residence, who are the subject of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking in persons.
- Continued humanitarian and peacekeeping support for the victims of the violence in the Darfur region of Sudan.
- \$337 million for the Peace Corps program, accomplishing voluntary services in approximately 76 countries worldwide in 2007. Peace Corps Volunteers work primarily in the areas of agriculture, business development, education, environment, health and HIV/AIDS, and youth. By September 2007, there will be approximately 7,900 Americans enrolled in the Peace Corps.
- \$2.8 billion in total funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which includes \$1 billion provided in the budget reconciliation bill. Total funding reflects an increase of over 27 percent compared with 2006. These funds will provide home energy assistance to low-income households and assist states in meeting unanticipated energy emergencies.
- \$615 million to assist States and Faith-Based and other humanitarian organizations in resettling refugees and asylees and helping them to become self-sufficient as quickly as possible. Of this amount, \$105 million supports the care and placement of unaccompanied alien children who are in federal custody by reason of their immigration status.
- \$1.5 billion for HUD's Homeless Assistance grants, a \$174 million increase from 2006. This increase supports the Administration's long-term goal of ending chronic homelessness by providing up to \$200 million for the Samaritan Initiative within the Homeless Assistance Grants annual competition. These additional funds will create and run approximately 12,000 new units of permanent supportive housing across the country for the chronically homeless. These new units are in addition to the 50,000 units created through on-going efforts of State, local, private sources as well as the Samaritan Initiative.

- Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA) will provide housing and services to approximately 75,000 low-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS in 2007. HOPWA is funded at \$300 million, a \$14 million increase from 2006.

Hunger Relief

- \$30.1 billion in estimated Food Stamp benefits to 25.9 million people.
- \$5.2 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, full funding for all those estimated to be eligible and seeking services
- \$1.2 billion for international humanitarian food aid, administered by USAID, with an additional \$263 million for international food aid by USDA.
 - \$99 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition program, unchanged from the 2006 enacted level. This funding will be supplemented by an additional \$4 million from anticipated cargo preference reimbursements. Together, these funds are expected to provide for the donation of about 80,000 metric tons of commodities and associated technical and financial assistance, which will feed an estimated 2.4 million women and children through preschool and school meal programs.
 - Additionally, mandatory funding authorized under the 2002 Farm Bill will continue to fund the Food for Progress program at a projected \$161 million in FY 2007.

Health Care for Those in Need

- \$2 billion to complete the President's commitment to create 1,200 new or expanded Health Center sites and make progress on establishing a health center site in every high poverty county in America that lacks a community health center or rural clinic and can support one. Through this funding, 1.2 million additional individuals will receive health care in 2007 through sites in rural areas and underserved urban neighborhoods.
- \$500 million per year for which States will compete to fund innovative ways to promote insurance among the chronically ill.
- \$100 million in grants annually to enroll additional eligible children in Medicaid and SCHIP through the Cover the Kids national outreach campaign, combining the resources of the Federal Government, States, schools, and community organizations.